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Clemson's professor testifies of exciting future of nanotechnology

Inglis concerned about producing qualified workforce for the field

Clemson University mechanical engineering professor Dr. John Kennedy was one of four witnesses to testify before a House Science Research Subcommittee hearing Wednesday morning, examining the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) and the commercialization of nanotechnology.

"I am fully supportive of the National Nanotechnology Initiative. It is a critical initiative with huge potential to impact the citizens of the U.S.," said Dr. John M. Kennedy, Director of the Center for Advanced Engineering Fibers and Films at Clemson University. "The National Nanotechnology Initiative provides significant support for infrastructure, faculty, and students. As various components of the research mature, the challenge will be to transfer the technology into profitable business ventures. It is likely that an entirely new industry will be spawned from the nanotechnology initiative."

The NNI was established in statute by the Science Committee as part of the *21st Century National Nanotechnology Research and Development Act*, which was signed into law by the President in December 2003. The program, a collaborative interagency endeavor that is designed to enhance the coordination and oversight of Federal efforts in nanotechnology, was cited by witnesses as key to the growth of the nanotechnology industry.

The witnesses also cited examples of successful partnerships between government and the public and private sectors, and discussed barriers to future advancement. They also cited the NNI as a successful program that is helping advance the nanotechnology industry.

Research Subcommittee Chairman Bob Inglis (R-SC) said, "Today, we heard about small things that can make a big difference. By operating on, rearranging and setting up atomic particles that are smaller than 1/75,000th of the width of a human hair—that's small!—we can do big things in a world innovation economy. We've got to get with it, though, investing in research and training the engineers of the future."

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